

FRIENDS NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JOHNSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY



FRIENDS WELCOME NEW DIRECTOR JULIA TURPIN

The Friends of the Library had the opportunity to meet and personally welcome Julia Turpin, the new director of the Johnson City Public Library, at the Friends annual meeting on September 13th. The meeting was an opportunity for Friends to get to know each other, as well as attend to some organizational business. Julia Turpin joins the JCPL from the Wilkes County Public Library in North Carolina. We are excited to welcome her to our community and we look forward to her leadership of the library!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- MEETING THE NEW JCPL
DIRECTOR & ANNUAL MEETING
- FALL BOOK SALE
- ONGOING BOOK SALE
- ARTFUL AGING
- BOOK REVIEWS FROM YOUR
FRIENDS



FALL BOOK SALE & ONGOING BOOK SALE

The Fall Book Sale will soon be here! Mark your calendar for the last weekend of October. Friends will have access to a special preview sale from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26. Friendship can be renewed (or started!) at the door. The sale for the general public continues Saturday, Oct. 27 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 28 from 1-3 p.m.

The Spring Book Sale last April raised \$4,004 for the library. We invite you to feel good shopping generously! And don't forget the Ongoing Booksale (pictured left), taking place all year long on shelves to the right when you enter the library lobby. You can find some great books, and annual sales bring in about \$4,000 for the library!

ARTFUL AGING

As Friends of the Library, we know we have many reasons to be proud of our library. If you talk with Adult Services Librarian Lisa Williams, she will be happy to tell you about one reason to be especially proud--the JCPL's Artful Aging program.

The JCPL was one of just 15 organizations in the country – and the only public library—to receive a highly competitive Artful Aging grant from Aroha Philanthropies.



Through their “Vitality Arts” initiative, Aroha aims “to champion arts programs that keep us vital, joyful and engaged by unleashing the transformative power of creativity in those 55+.” More about this organization and the grant can be found at www.vitalityarts.org.

So far, 137 participants have taken part in 15 Artful Aging workshops, receiving instruction in such artistic pursuits as music, storytelling, poetry, sculpture, theatre, photography, and more. Each workshop has had limited space to ensure each person gets sufficient one-on-one time with the professional teaching artist.

Each of these workshops culminate in a performance or exhibition. The Friends of the Library have supported Artful Aging by volunteering at these events and providing refreshments for the accompanying receptions, which have welcomed 529 attendees so far.



The culminating events have been a wonderful opportunity to showcase not only the art, but the positive impact the program has on its participants, their friends and families, and the community at large.

ON OUR COLLECTIVE NIGHT STAND

Looking for your next read? Check out these reviews from your fellow Friends of the Library

I was late to the party with *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld. I'd heard about it but didn't really check it out until I was prepping for a recent road trip and started perusing audiobooks at the Johnson City Public Library.

Pride and Prejudice (the book as well as the 1995 BBC mini-series, and the 2005 movie) is a favorite, and I was both intrigued and unsure if I wanted a contemporary author to retell the story. Sittenfeld hails from Cincinnati, and being an Ohio native who spent more than her fair share of time in the Queen City, I was pleased to have the story set in a place I knew. Using short chapters, lots of scenes, snappy dialogue, and great characterization, Sittenfeld takes the reader on an entertaining journey. Sure, Sittenfeld veers from P&P in some ways—the woes some of the daughters face have been updated since some of the breaking of social mores of the Jane Austen era would not make us blink an eye in modern times—but the overarching story holds true. Still, Sittenfeld manages to spring in some minor surprises: I won't spoil them here. A reality show, for which the book is named, closely mirrors the Bachelor franchise and serves as a bookend to the story and a source of humor. Sittenfeld also covers some of the social issues of our time, along with people who fall on both sides of the issues and the prejudices that ensue.

Cassandra Campbell read the audiobook I listened to on my trip, and she did a fantastic job. If you're looking for a fun, easy, make-the-time-go-by-quickly kind of book, *Eligible* will do the trick. Of course you don't get Colin Firth emerging from the water with his shirt clinging to his chest. But I didn't expect these things. I expected to be entertained—and I was. --Shuly Cawood



If I had to select 10 books to have with me to read the rest of my life, *Heart in the Right Place* would be one of them. I've read it practically every year since it was published. Some of Carolyn Jourdan's words are so funny that I have happy tears running down my face, while other parts of the book are so poignantly sad that I'm sobbing with sadness. I highly recommend this book!-- Rebecca Henderson



Thank you to our Friends for contributing reviews! If you don't see yours here it may be featured in a future edition. You may send your reviews to friendsofjclibrary@gmail.com.

Thinking of books to review that I read recently, two occurred to me that seem appropriate to review together. They are *The Story of Forgetting : A Novel* by Stefan Merrill Block and *Frankenstein in Baghdad : A Novel* by Ahmad Saadawi.

The first is a novel about Alzheimer's, specifically hereditary Alzheimer's and how knowing it may be coming affects your life. The author himself is in this situation, and the novel feels real in a way that is both tragic and riveting. The character researches the disease, and the reader will learn a great deal. But in addition to describing the travails of dealing with memory loss in family and the fear of one's own impending fate, he points out some advantages of forgetting. In one poignant story, three sisters are in different stages of dementia. The oldest is in the most advanced stages, but also the happiest, because she has forgotten her concerns and is essentially in the care of the others. He also weaves a fable of a land where nobody remembers, and thus all insults and conflicts are forgotten moments later and peace reigns.

This is very relevant to the next novel, *Frankenstein in Bagdad*, written by an Iraqi, who is also intimate with the daily insanity in "post-war" Iraq. In his novel, a character frequently encounters human body parts from bombings, and decides to assemble one corpse from the pieces so that the victims can receive a proper burial. Through some mysterious magic, the corpse comes to life, and sets about avenging the wrongs done to the people of whom it is made. Its parts need replacing at times, and there is always a ready supply, which just adds more crimes to avenge, although when some parts come from criminals (and how to define criminal in this environment?) vengeance may strike relatively good people as well. What is clear is that the avenger will never be finished, and the deaths will never stop. It is a brilliant metaphor, and one that makes us see the value in forgetting for the peace of the world. Whether it is the Iraqis that suffered under Saddam, ISIS that cannot forget the Spanish Inquisition, or Americans that cannot forget the civil war, the world might be happier if our memories were not so good.-- Bill Perkins



I found the book *The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi* by Kathie Lee Gifford an engaging, well-written read. She as author has done a great amount of research and her account of the scriptures and the land of Jesus is in my reading 95% accurate. The pictures and stories of how their tours of Israel and Jerusalem affected Frank, Cody, Cassidy, and Kathy do make a fantastic autobiography.— Anita Sewell

FOL Officers for 2018

President Kathy Hall

Vice-President Dale Schmitt

Secretary Elisabeth Dubberly

Treasurer Linda Gallagher

Connect with the Friends of the Library

Facebook: facebook.com/JCPLFOL

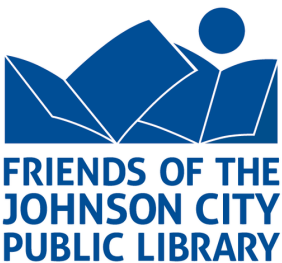
Email: friendsofjclibrary@gmail.com

Web: jcpl.org/contact-the-friends

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE BOOK SALE COUPON

- Free item of equal or lesser value
- One coupon per person
- Does not apply to sets of items

Fall Book Sale October 26-28!



Friends of the
Johnson City Public Library
100 W. Millard St.
Johnson City, TN 37604